

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT AND PRESS GUIDANCE ON SHCHARANSKIY AND
GINZBURG CASES

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1. STATEMENT AND PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE IN
DEPARTMENT FOLLOWS:

2. "WE VIEW WITH DEEP CONCERN THE OPENING OF THE TRIALS
OF ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY. MR. SHCHARANSKIY HAS BEEN HELD
IN DETENTION BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR 16 MONTHS. HE
HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS.
NOR HAS HE BEEN ALLOWED TO SELECT HIS OWN LEGAL COUNSEL FOR
A TRIAL, WHICH IS ITSELF UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES WHO ARRESTED HIM. THESE FACTORS CALL INTO
QUESTION THE FAIRNESS OF THE TRIAL AND THE PROTECTION OF MR.
SHCHARANSKIY'S HUMAN RIGHTS. THE US GOVERNMENT HAS
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REPEATEDLY MADE ITS CONCERN FOR MR. SHCHARANSKIY KNOWN,
BOTH PRIVATELY TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND PUBLICLY. OUR
INTEREST IN HIM IS NATURAL IN VIEW OF HIS ACTIVITIES ON
BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE RIGHT TO EMI-
GRATE WHICH WE AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A FIRM COMMIT-
MENT TO PROMOTE. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED OUR SIMILAR
CONCERN ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF ALEXANDER GINZBURG.

3. "THESE TRIALS WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY IN THE UNITED STATES. IN OUR VIEW, THE FATE OF MR. SHCHARANSKIY AND MR. GINZBURG WILL BE AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, BOTH WITH REGARD TO OBSERVING ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND TO PROMOTING A HEALTHY ATMOSPHERE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR AND WE DO NOT PLAN TO OFFER FURTHER COMMENTS ON ASPECTS OF THESE TRIALS WHILE THEY ARE IN SESSION.

4. "QUESTION: WILL US EMBASSY OFFICERS ATTEND THE SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL?

5. "ANSWER: AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE. HOWEVER, THE PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT SEEMS TO INDICATE THE TRIAL WILL BE CLOSED.

6. "QUESTION: WILL THE TRIALS OF SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG AFFECT THE VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING?

7. "ANSWER: THE MEETING WILL PROCEED AS SCHEDULED.

8. "QUESTION: WHAT IS THE EFFECT ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS?

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9. "ANSWER: I DO NOT WISH TO GO BEYOND OUR STATEMENT AT THE PRESENT TIME." VANCE

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